

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, after 20 years, the United States is winding down its involvement in a long, protracted war in Afghanistan, but we have an obligation to the men and women who have served with Allied forces who put themselves at risk, especially the interpreters.

I am proud of the fact that the first 2,500 of those people will be, in fact, located in Virginia for processing as we try to protect them and their families for their service in a noble cause.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to voting for the bill that will be coming up later this morning, and I thank Mr. CROW, particularly, for his leadership in this matter.

INCREASING INFLATION

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to see President Biden has acknowledged that we are having a lot of inflation right now in this country affecting prices for everybody. He even went so far as to tell some restaurant owners that you are going to be in a bind for a while because it is going to still be hard to get workers.

When people are paid not to show up because of overgenerous benefits, all our small businesses will continue to be in a bind. When you pay people not to work, you get inflation. So for a few maybe getting a wage increase because the restaurants are in a bind, everybody receives higher prices. Prices are up, we know, on food, on fuel, lumber, many things. This is what happens when the government spends too much, puts too much money into the economy all based on debt.

So what are we going to do about that? Are we going to set a course here to put people back in business, or do we want to have, like we saw just this last month, another 5.4 percent of inflation, which is really a tax on every American.

AVERTING LOSS OF LIFE AND INJURY BY EXPEDITING SIVS ACT OF 2021

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 535, I call up the bill (H.R. 3985) to amend the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 to expedite the special immigrant visa process for certain Afghan allies, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BROWN). Pursuant to House Resolution 535, the amendment printed in part C of House Report 117-95, is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 3985

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Averting Loss of Life and Injury by Expediting SIVs Act of 2021" or as the "ALLIES Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. IMPROVING AFGHAN SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISA PROGRAM.

(a) *EVIDENCE OF SERIOUS THREAT.*—Section 602(b)(2) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)(iv), by striking "has experienced or is experiencing" and inserting "has asserted a credible basis for concern about the possibility of";

(2) by striking subparagraph (E); and

(3) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as subparagraph (E).

(b) *ACTIVITIES FOR UNITED STATES MILITARY PERSONNEL STATIONED WITH INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE OF SUCCESSOR FORCE.*—Section 602(b)(2)(A)(ii)(I)(bb) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) is amended by striking "sensitive and trusted".

(c) *AFGHANS EMPLOYED SUBJECT TO A GRANT OR COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.*—Section 602(b)(2)(A)(ii)(I) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) is amended by inserting after "United States Government" the following "including employment or other work in Afghanistan through a cooperative agreement or grant funded by the United States Government if the Secretary of State determines, based on a recommendation from the Federal agency or organization authorizing such funding, that such alien contributed to the United States mission in Afghanistan".

(d) *ELIMINATING DUPLICATIVE PROCESSING REQUIREMENTS.*—Section 602(b) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of State in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security" and inserting "the Secretary of State"; and

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking "a petition for classification under section 203(b)(4) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(4))" and inserting "a request for such status in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary of Homeland Security and Secretary of State"; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking "petition" and inserting "request"; and

(B) in subparagraph (D)(i) by striking "petition" and inserting "request".

(e) *STRENGTHENING PROTECTION FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES AND CHILDREN.*—Subparagraph (C) of section 602(b)(2) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) is amended to read as follows:

"(C) *SURVIVING SPOUSE OR CHILD.*—An alien is described in this subparagraph if—

"(i) the alien was the spouse or child of a principal alien described in subparagraph (A) who had submitted a request for classification pursuant to this section or a petition pursuant to section 1059 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109-163; 8 U.S.C. 1101 note) which included the alien as an accompanying spouse or child; and

"(ii) such request or petition—

"(I) if approved, was revoked (or otherwise rendered null) due to the death of the principal alien; or

"(II) if pending, is otherwise approvable but for the death of the principal alien."

(f) *APPLICABILITY.*—The amendments made by this section shall apply to any requests for special immigration status, applications for special immigrant visas, or applications for adjustment of status under the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) that are pending on

the date of the enactment of this Act or filed on or after such date.

(g) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.*—The amendments made by this section shall not diminish, replace or override any vetting, verification of employment, approval by chief of mission, or any other screening process required for a special immigrant visa under the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note).

SEC. 3. AFGHAN ALLIES PROTECTION ACT.

Section 602(b)(3) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(G) *SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEARS.*—Beginning on the date of the enactment of this subparagraph, in addition to any unused balance under this paragraph, 8,000 principal aliens may be granted special immigrant status under this subsection. For purposes of status provided under this subparagraph the authority to issue visas or adjust status shall commence on the date of the enactment of this subparagraph and shall terminate on the date such visa numbers are exhausted."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, is debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary, or their respective designees.

The gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 3985.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3985, the Averting Loss of Life and Injury by Expediting SIVs Act of 2021, or the ALLIES Act, makes essential changes to the Afghan special immigrant visa program to ensure that the lives of those who served faithfully alongside American troops in Afghanistan are protected.

The special immigrant visa program allows those individuals who worked for or on behalf of the U.S. Government in Afghanistan, or for the NATO International Security Assistance Force in support of the American mission, to seek lawful permanent residence in the United States.

To be eligible, applicants must establish qualifying employment in Afghanistan for 2 years, receive approval from the Chief of Mission, and undergo rigorous background checks and national security vetting, a process that, on average, takes 3 years.

Our 20-year mission in Afghanistan will formally come to an end in just a few short weeks. Each day that we continue to draw down our military presence in Afghanistan, threats to the lives of Afghans who supported our cause are increasing exponentially.

The Biden administration has committed to relocating certain applicants